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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

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and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1965

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KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1965

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Telephone No.: Kidderminster 2237.

LAND OAK HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. HINGLEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR J. W. WARDLE, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. E. BAZLEY
„ C. BLOUNT
„ H. DOOLITTLE
„ G. R. GILLEY
„ J. T. HARDY
„ H. E. HICKTON
„ A. E. HOBSON
„ W. H. KIMBERLEE, M.B.E., J.P.
„ J. PAGE
„ J. POWICK
„ E. SMITH
„ S. SPENCER
„ M. W. STAITE, M.B.E.
„ C. E. TALBOT

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health:
R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer:
R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I,
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)
Assistant: C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk:
Mrs. I. M. MANN

Rats and Mice Destruction Operative: E. LEE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1965.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in Acres	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident Population mid 1965	12,390
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1965 ...	4,265
Rateable Value	£389,129
Sum represented by a penny rate	1,540

Social Conditions

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agriculture and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in neighbouring towns and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics

Births	Males	Females	1965 Total	1964 Total
(a) Live Births: Legitimate	109	111	220	200
Illegitimate	6	7	13	10
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...			18.8	17.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales			18.1	18.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births			5.6	4.8
(b) Still Births: Legitimate ...	0	1	1	1
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0	1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			.08	.16
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.7	16.3
(c) Total Live and Still Births	115	119	234	212

Deaths

	Males	Females	1965 Total	1964 Total
(a) Number registered for District	44	59	103	113
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			8.3	9,2
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.5	11.3
(b) Maternal Mortality			0	0
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still Births			0	0
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales			0.25	0.25
(c) Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)				
Legitimate	3	3	6	2
Illegitimate	1	1	2	0
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:				
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births			34.2	9.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			27.2	10.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			153.8	0
(d) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:				
Legitimate	2	2	4	2
Illegitimate	1	1	2	0
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			25.8	9.5
Neo-natal mortality rate for England and Wales			13.0	13.8
(e) Early neo-natal Mortality (under 1 week):				
Legitimate	2	2	4	2
Illegitimate	1	0	1	0
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births			21.5	9.5
(f) Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			25.8	18.9
(g) Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births (under 1 year)			19.0	20.0

Causes of Death in Infants under 1 year

Ventricular septal defect.
Toxaemia and Infected Meningomyelocele.
Convulsion and Cyanotic attacks (Prematurity).
Neonatal Pneumonia.
Bronchopneumonia, Meningomyelocele and Hydrocephalus
Atelectasis, extreme prematurity.
Atelectasis, prematurity.
Atelectasis.

Causes of Death:		M.	F.
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	2	9
16.	Diabetes	1	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	5
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	9	12
20.	Other Heart Disease	5	9
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	2	4
23.	Pneumonia	3	6
24.	Bronchitis	2	1
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	1
31.	Congenital Malformations	1	2
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	6	4
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—
34.	All Other Accidents	—	1
35.	Suicide	—	2
	Total all Causes	44	59

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Staff

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, and of Mrs. I. M. Mann as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board and operates from Hayley Green.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, the operational headquarters of which are based at the County Medical Officer of Health's offices at Love's Grove, Worcester—telephone numbers Worcester 21611/5.

The ambulance station at Kidderminster operates a fully manned twenty-four hour service.

Nursing at Home

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practice as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the area.

Infant Welfare Centres

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the area—at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown and Gorst Hill, where immunisation and vaccination are carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the area.

The Doctor is in attendance at the clinics on the following days:—

Far Forest — 2nd Tuesday even months.

Gorst Hill — 2nd Wednesday odd months.

Wolverley — 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month.

Cookley — 2nd and 4th Friday each month.

Blakedown — 4th Thursday each month.

Wribbenhall — 4th Tuesday each month.

Chaddesley Corbett — 1st Thursday each month.

Hospitals

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

For maternity cases beds are available in the Croft Maternity Home, Kidderminster, and the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, Stourport-on-Severn, and for those requiring admission to hospital, All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, and Loveday Street Hospital, Birmingham.

Tuberculosis

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment when necessary. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6.30 p.m., Wednesday at 10.0 a.m. and Thursday at 2.0 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for prevention and after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee.

Veneral Disease

Owing to staffing changes and the relatively small attendances the Clinic at Kidderminster General Hospital was closed during the year. Facilities are now available at:

Worcester Royal Infirmary — Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton — Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Dudley Guest Hospital — Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The major water supply in this district is obtained from the North West Worcestershire Water Board, with whom the closest contact is maintained. Results of the analysis of samples taken both mains and local are shared.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 36 samples of water from the main sources of supply for the area for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

Water Supplies to Houses in the Rural District

Parish	From Public Mains, Number of Premises	From Private Supplies, e.g., Wells, Springs, etc. Number of Premises	Total
Wolverley	1,430	4	1,434
Upper Arley	300	15	315
Ribbesford	28	4	32
Churchill and Blakedown	491	2	493
Rock	657	19	676
Broome	96	12	108
Stone	180	19	199
Rushock	54	2	56
Kidderminster Foreign ...	359	20	379
Chaddesley Corbett ...	517	15	532
Totals	4,112	112	4,224

Percentage of houses connected to Public Mains = 97.5%

Drainage and Sewerage

Chaddesley Corbett

The new sewage disposal scheme is functioning satisfactorily and has brought about a great improvement in the sanitary conditions of this area.

Callow Hill

With further development occurring in this area the urgency of an adequate sewarage scheme is even more apparent and the Council are strongly recommended to proceed with this.

Blakedown

The Surveyor's Department continues to battle with a deteriorating situation in this area and despite every effort new plant is urgently required.

Upper Arley

Work has been in progress throughout the year on the new scheme for this village and its completion is anxiously awaited in order that the local sanitary conditions can be improved.

Summary of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal to Permanent Houses

Parish	Houses connected to a Public Sewer	No. of Houses with: Pails	Septic Tanks, etc.
Wolverley	1,084	6	145
Upper Arley ...	39	24	114
Ribbesford	—	—	32
Churchill & Blaked'n	300	6	177
Rock	73	52	601
Broome	2	—	106
Stone	76	6	119
Rushock	10	6	46
Kidderm'ster Foreign	20	15	254
Chaddesley Corbett	299	19	276
Totals ...	1,903	134	1,870

River Pollution

River Stour and Canal

Despite the efforts of all concerned pollution shows little apparant changes. It is obvious that this as a very long term problem.

HOUSING

(a) Action under Housing Act during the year

Number of houses represented for Demolition Orders	4
Number of Demolition Orders made	5
Number of houses represented for Closing Orders ...	2
Number of Closing Orders made (whole houses) ...	2
Number of Closing Orders made (part of a building)	Nil
Number of Closing Orders changed to Demolition Orders	Nil
Undertakings not to use house accepted	Nil
Undertakings to repair house accepted	Nil
Number of houses actually demolished during the year	Nil
Number of persons displaced	10

(b) Public Health Act

Houses in which defects were remedied:

After informal action by Local Authority	201
After formal action by Local Authority	Nil

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices served	140
Intimation letters sent	51
Statutory Notices served	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936. Part IV — OVERCROWDING

No case of serious overcrowding has come to light during the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

Immunisation against Diptheria

Our efforts to persuade all parents to bring their children for immunisation continued as before.

149 children under five years of age and 10 children from five to fifteen years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 220 were given booster doses.

No cases of Diptheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year 90 persons were vaccinated and 3 were re-vaccinated.

Notifications

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1965 are set out in the following table:—

Disease	AGE IN YEARS							Total No. of Cases	No. of cases admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	5	1	1	—	8	1	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	7	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	6	—	—
Measles	5	15	26	67	7	1	—	121	1	—
Totals	5	15	28	76	10	2	7	143	2	—

Tuberculosis

No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1965 and there were no deaths from the disease.

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1959

There are twelve factories in the district. Conditions of employment are very satisfactory and the owners co-operate to the full with your Health Department.

Part 1 of the Act

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	12	16

No defects were found during the year.

Part VIII of the Act — Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Outworkers in August List	Section 110 No. of cases of default in sending Lists	No. of prosecutions
Making wearing apparel	1	Nil	Nil

There is only one person employed on outwork, viz., glove knitting in her own home and conditions are ideal.

Conclusion

During the year the Council decided to purchase the necessary vehicle to institute a cesspool emptying scheme. This will bring benefit to those ratepayers who are unable to connect to the main sewer.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM

Medical Officer of Health

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1965

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1965

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1965.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS

Meat

Two slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	69	Nil	Nil	1701	510
Number inspected	69	Nil	Nil	1654	510
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	6
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.7	1.2
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned

Pleurisy	5 lbs.
Necrosis	19½ lbs.
Injury	22½ lbs.
Total	47 lbs.

Milk

The premises used for this trade which come under the jurisdiction of the Council have given no cause for complaint.

Other Foods

The following details show the position with regard to food premises:—

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act	Inspections
General Provisions ...	47	—	210
Cafes	9	—	67
Hotels and other Licensed premises ...	35	—	117
Works Canteens ...	1	—	6
Dairies	20	—	79
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	17
Ice Cream Retailers ...	40	40	59

There has been no necessity to bring to the notice of food traders any serious infringements of regulations. They have a good sense of their responsibilities to the general public and are willing to adopt any reasonable suggestion made by the Health Department. The storage of food in deep freeze has been very successfully carried out.

There are two race meetings at Chaddesley Corbett each year, the catering arrangements for which are in the hands of reputable firms of caterers. Considering that these meetings are for one day only, standards of hygiene have been very good.

Personal contact has again been maintained with all persons handling food in the district.

Ice Cream

Having only one small manufacturer of ice cream the vast majority of ice cream sold in the district comes from large concerns in other areas. This ice cream is almost invariably supplied to the customer in cartons or wrappings.

It has not been necessary to draw attention to any infringements during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Number of unexpired Licences in force	9

Bakehouses

Number on Register December, 1965	2
Inspections	20

Contraventions remedied

Limewashing	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service is carried out by three S. and D. Freighters.

It is the Council's firm intention to considerably improve this system during 1966 in order to provide more frequent collections throughout the district.

Tipping is carried out at the tip at Caunsall and methods of controlled tipping have been applied throughout the year.

The refuse has been tipped in fingers which have been regularly covered with soil and ashes.

The refuse tip is sprayed with insecticide before covering and the nuisance from flies was kept at an absolute minimum.

A regular supply of soil for covering purposes has been assured for future use.

The tip is surrounded with trees and bushes of several types and every endeavour has been made to retain as many as possible as they act as a very efficient screen.

The following are details of the number of loads dealt with:—

Tipped at Caunsall	...	1324 loads
Tipped at Wolverley	...	39 loads
Total	...	1363 loads

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

The Kidderminster Rural District is such that many thousands of holiday makers spend considerable periods in caravans throughout the district. Up to the moment thirty sites comprising 604 caravans are licensed and facilities have been provided in accordance with the Model Standards.

It is pleasing to be able to record that owners and occupiers of sites have faced up to their responsibility and shown every co-operation.

A close touch has been maintained with the Worcester City and County Fire Brigade and their suggestions with regard to fire fighting arrangements have been adopted.

The caravan dwellers themselves are almost without exception a good type who take pride in the maintenance of their caravans and sites. In several instances Site Committees have been set up and these Committees have maintained the closest contact with the Council and its Officials.

Water Supply

Bacteriological samples of the water supplies in the Rural District are regularly taken and when necessary chemical analyses are made. Details of samples taken are as follows:—

	Fit	Unfit	Total
From Public Mains	36	—	36
From Private Supplies (Wells and Springs)	6	2	8

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, 1965

Particulars of visits and inspections are as follows:—

Housing Inspection (Public Health & Housing Acts) ...	770
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	981
Dairies	79
Fried Fish Premises	4
Infectious Diseases	4
Overcrowding	203
Premises where animals are kept	117
Schools	8
Water Courses	143
Water Supply	209
Provision of Dustbins	259
Workshops	8
Miscellaneous	1002
Refuse Collection	1874

SANITARY WORK

Interior of Houses

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants	6
Verminous houses dealt with	Nil

Yards and Outbuildings

Dirty yards and W.C.'s cleansed by tenants	6
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc. ...	107

Drainage

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	85
Defective drains repaired	42
New drains provided	76
Sinks provided	44
Cesspools abolished	16

Water Closets

New Water Closets erected	52
Foul and obstructed water closets cleansed	25
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired	67
Water closets repaired	82
Defective water supply to W.C.'s remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)	302

Conversions:

Conversion of Privies to W.C.'s	Nil
Conversion of Pail Closets to W.C.'s	10

Ashpits and Dustbins

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	208
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants ...	17

Various

Nuisance from improper keeping of animals	172

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

Infestation Order, 1943

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses ...	625
Number of other infestations dealt with	96
Number of complaints received	87

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

HOUSING

A further 28 houses were erected during the year, making a total of 905 since the war. A further 22 are in the course of erection.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Your Public Health Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Officer, and the following figures are of interest:—

Number of premises licensed for storage:—

Private	4
Business	42
For Re-sale	12
Total	58

Total fees received ... ... £34 10s. 0d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licensee to any serious infringement of the Acts.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year?

The work shown in the foregoing report could only have been successfully carried out with the loyal support of Mr. Knott, Public Health Assistant, Mrs. I. M. Mann, Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk, and Mr. E. Lee, Rats and Mice Destruction Operative. I herewith pay tribute to their services.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. Chapman, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Public Health Inspector

THE COOKLEY PRINTERS (R. L. Miller), near Kidderminster
(Tel: Wolverley 337)